



Department of  
**AGRICULTURE  
FISHERIES &  
FORESTRY -  
AUSTRALIA**



Ref: 99/2534

15 February 2001

## **ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2001/08**

### **IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS: NON-DOMESTIC FELIDAE**

#### **DRAFT REPORT**

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) provides stakeholders with the draft report on the import risk analysis of non-domestic felidae. Comments should be provided by 17 April 2001.

Biosecurity Australia receives periodic applications for the importation of non-domestic carnivores for zoos and circuses. In 1997, INTERIM QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF ZOO CARNIVORES were issued that were generic and covered a range of disease agents known to affect at least some members of the Order Carnivora.

This was followed in 1998 with Animal Quarantine Policy Memoranda (AQPMs 1998/14 and 1998/58 stating that an import risk analysis (IRA) was to be conducted, using the routine approach, for the Family Felidae in the first place, followed by IRAs on a family by family basis for the remaining five families within the Order. The allocation of priorities has resulted in the delay between these communications and the completion and presentation of the draft IRA report. (Attachment A)

Biosecurity Australia considered the exotic disease agents. For those with the potential to cause serious harm to animals, humans and the environment or to have adverse socio-economic effects on a national scale, and which have the potential to be introduced in non-domestic Felidae, risk management measures are proposed.

Generally risk management procedures are aimed at prevention of entry rather than post-arrival measures. The public health aspects of serious zoonoses are addressed, even when the consequences of introduction may be of low significance to animal health.

The amended Quarantine Act 1908 no longer requires imported non-domestic animals to remain in permanent quarantine. However, for environmental reasons, it is unlikely non-domestic Felidae will ever be permitted release from controlled institutions. We therefore believe that there will be no difficulty in the enforcement of long-term quarantine surveillance where such a risk management measure is deemed necessary.



Edmund Barton Building  
Barton ACT  
GPO Box 858  
Canberra ACT 2601  
ph +61 2 6272 3933  
fax +61 2 6272 5161  
[www.affa.gov.au](http://www.affa.gov.au)  
ABN 24 113 085 695

### Next Steps

Your comments on the draft IRA and quarantine requirements are invited. Animal Biosecurity will take account of stakeholder comments in finalising the IRA.

Your response by 17 April 2001 would be appreciated.

We would be grateful if you would pass details of this notice to other interested parties, who should advise the contact officer if they wish to be included in future communications on this matter. Inquiries should be directed to the officer whose contact details appear below.

### Confidentiality

Respondents are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received in response to Animal Biosecurity Policy Memoranda will be publicly available and may be listed or referred to in any papers or reports prepared on the subject matter of the Memoranda.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reveal the identity of a respondent unless a request for anonymity accompanies the submission. Where a request for anonymity does not accompany the submission the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of his or her identity for the purposes of Information Privacy Principle 11 of the Privacy Act.

The contents of the submission will not be treated as confidential unless they are marked 'confidential' and they are capable of being classified as such in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

BERNARD ROBINSON  
A/g General Manager  
Animal Biosecurity

CONTACT OFFICER: MARGARET LEGGOE  
PHONE NOS: 02 6271 6557/ 02 6296 4550  
FAX: 02 6272 3399  
EMAIL: [margaret.leggoe@affa.gov.au](mailto:margaret.leggoe@affa.gov.au)